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Role of CIA

James R. Newman's letter of Jan. 14 is the kind of heavy-handed sarcasm, intended to be humorous, which somehow reminds one of a German band trying to serenade a beautiful woman at midnight.

Why doesn't Mr. Newman save time, and what most other letter writers to *The Washington Post* find is highly cherished and parsimoniously parceled out, space, by simply coming out and castigating CIA? Why all the fancy, classical reference to the Greeks and their exaggerations? Why not simply say that CIA's statistics are wrong and give his sources?

Not so circumlocutory in your Jan. 14 editorial, "Making Policy Again," in which CIA is reprimanded for "making policy" in warning against extending credit to an eco-

nomically weakening Russia. As K. L. London pointed out in a letter on Jan. 13, the organic act creating CIA leaves no question but that Congress not only gave CIA operational powers but also policy formulation authority. The cry of the radical right, as expressed by Senator Mc-

Carthy and others, that CIA is exceeding its authority is the yelp of the yapping dog who has been shackled where it hurts.

The CIA has too long been kept in the swaddling clothes of collecting facts only to have these facts manhandled by so-called "policy making" agencies and distorted by them to suit their own preconceived ideas of what U.S. policy should be. It has too long been made the butt of, censure and ridicule for actions and mistakes made by others such as denying air cover at the Bay of Pigs.

Long "communications" from biased gentry or snippy editorials from myopic editorial writers are not going to deceive those readers who merely subscribe to get the news but who are frequently nauseated by the biased opinion on the editorial page.

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